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13 January 1954

Memorandum for: The Director of Central Intelligence

Subject: Luncheon with Senator Saltonstall

1. Senator Leverett Saltonstall, Majority Whip, Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, and member of the Senate Appropriations Committee (including its Armed Services Subcommittee), is scheduled to lunch here on Monday, 18 January, accompanied by his assistant, Mr. Henry Minot. Mr. Minot has been closely associated with the Senator, both here and during Saltonstall's term as Governor of Massachusetts. He frequently sits in for the Senator at Appropriations meetings and has been invariably helpful to CIA on a variety of matters. Those from CIA invited to the luncheon are the Director, the Deputy Director, Mr. Wisner, Mr. Amory, Mr. Pfornzheimer, and Mr. [redacted] is an old friend of Senator Saltonstall.

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2. It is the opinion of the undersigned that the most important problem on Capitol Hill insofar as CIA is concerned is that we do not have any official spokesman or persons who can come to our defense either on the Floor or, more important, in the Cloak Rooms where so much discussion takes place. The most general complaint is that no one on Capitol Hill really "knows" about CIA, its size, its budget or its activities.

3. One of the solutions to this problem would be to have the Armed Services Committees assert a more active jurisdiction over CIA, particularly as the Armed Services Committees are responsible for our legislation. If Senator Saltonstall could be persuaded to set up a special subcommittee which could take periodic looks at CIA, whose members would be in a position to defend us where necessary, and to which subcommittee any complaints could be channeled, it might serve to ease the Congressional problem and also obviate the necessity for a Joint Committee.

CRC, 2/25/2003

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4. It is felt that, if the opportunity presented itself at the lunch, this subject could be informally explored with Senator Saltonstall, and if he would be willing to take the lead in such a matter, it would be most helpful. A similar arrangement might be made with Dewey Short, Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, and perhaps the two subcommittees could sit jointly on an ad hoc and informal basis.

Walter L. Pforzheimer
Legislative Counsel